

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 H-01 INR-10 PA-01

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 HA-05 SSO-00 INRE-00 /049 W

-----030518 142239Z /73 R

O 142226Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7961

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 05061

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VE, CO, CR, BL, PN

SUBJECT: FRAUD IN BOLIVIAN ELECTIONS

REF: STATE 178040

1. I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY AT LUNCH TODAY TO ACT ON REQUEST IN REFTEL. DURING A VERY FRIENDLY CHAT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CONSALVI, I RAISED THE BOLIVIAN ELECTION PROBLEM AND CONGRATULATED HIM AND HIS GOVERNMENT ON THEIR STATEMENT. I ALSO CALLED ATTENTION TO OUR STATEMENT YESTERDAY ALONG THE SAME LINES. HE INDICATED THIS MATTER HAD NOT COME UP DURING HIS TALKS WITH THE OTHER FOREIGN MINISTERS DURING THEIR VERY BRIEF VISIT HERE. BUT HE SAID THAT HE WOULD TRY TO RAISE IT WITH HIS COLOMBIAN AND COSTA RICAN COLLEAGUES BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE TODAY, NUDGING THEM IN THE DIRECTION OF SIMILAR EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN.

2. COSTA RICA'S CALDERON SAID THAT, IN LINE WITH PRESIDENT CARAZO'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER, COSTA RICA WOULD WANT TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE IN THIS MATTER. HE GAVE IT AS HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT THE BOLIVIAN CASE
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WAS NOT AS EXTREME AS THAT IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. IT SEEMED TO HIM CLOSER TO THE KIND OF HANKY-PANKY THAT MARKED THE RECENT ELECTIONS IN GUATEMALA. NONETHELESS, HE SAID HE WOULD BE LOOKING INTO THE MATTER FURTHER AND WOULD CONSIDER WHETHER A STATEMENT WOULD BE HELPFUL.

3. COLOMBIA'S LIEVANO RECEIVED A MESSAGE DURING THE

LUNCHEON REPORTING ON OUR AMBASSADOR'S DEMARCHE IN BOGOTA. HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD WANT TO WAIT QUOTE FOR A DAY OR TWO UNQUOTE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE BOLIVIAN EVENTS. HE ADMITTED HIS INFORMATION AS OF THE MOMENT WAS RATHER SKETCHY. BUT HE AGREED TO GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT TO THE UTILITY OF A COLOMBIAN STATEMENT OR OTHER ACTION.

4. THE PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WAS HOST FOR THE LUNCHEON AND WAS SURROUNDED THROUGHOUT BY HIS GUESTS, INCLUDING THE BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR. I WILL BE SEEING HIM THIS EVENING AND WILL TRY TO GET HIM TO CONSIDER SOME KIND OF OFFICIAL REACTION TO THE BOLIVIAN EVENTS. WILL REPORT TOMORROW. JORDEN

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